(b) if so, whether the key proposal about industry's acceptance of minimum 33 per cent additional capacity of pipeline to be built in order to avail the benefit of the infrastructure status was discussed; and

(c) if so, what were the main decisions arrived at and to what extent approval has been received from these players for finalizing the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) :(a) Yes, Sir. Meetings were held with the industry on 2.6.2006 and 4.7.2006.

(b) and (c) Various issues relating to the draft policy for development of natural gas pipelines and city or local natural gas distribution networks, including those relating to providing at least 335 extra capacity in gas pipelines for use on common carrier basis by and third party on open access and non-discriminatory basis, were discussed. The draft Policy hs not been finalized as yet.

Import of LNG from Iran

†813. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to some reasons the deal to import LNG (Lequefied Natural Gas) from Iran has got into dispute;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to overcome difficulties in this deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) A Sale Purchase Agreement (SPA) for the purchase of 5 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of LNG was signed between Gail (India) Limited (GAIL)/Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)/ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and National Iranian Gas Export Company (NIGEC), on 13th June, 2005 in Tehran. The contract period is 25 years, beginning from the last quarter of 2009.

Simultaneously, the parties also signed a side letter to the LNG SPA on 13th June, 2005 as per which NIGEC desired to obtain the approval of their parent company, National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), for the SPA to become effective.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

It is understood that the Iranian internal procedures required to be completed for he approval of the SPA have not yet been finalized. The matter is being pursued with the Iranian authorities.

Parallel sale of kerosene

814. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to amend SKO Control order of 93 by allowing parallel sale of kerosene;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would be able to check the prices of kerosene if the kerosene is imported privately; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) This Ministry had introduced Parallel Marketing System (PMS) for kerosene *vide* Notification dated 2.9.1993 allowing the private agencies to import and market kerosene at market prices in the country. Subsequently, on the recommendation of this Ministry, Deptt. of Commerce *vide* Notification dated 25.11.2003 canalized the import of kerosene through State Trading Enterprises such as Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and IBP Company Limited (IBP) for all purposes and also through the State Trading Corporation by Advance License Holders. SKO Control Order, 1993 has now been amended on 06.07.2006 allowing parallel marketers to source their requirements from indigenous sources also.

(c) and (d) The price of kerosene supplied through the PDS is currently Rs. 9.05/litre in Delhi and has not been increased since April 2002. Parallel marketers are free to sell the kerosene at market determined prices.

LPG coverage in Rajasthan

815. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what per cent of population has been covered by domestic LPG in Rajasthan;